



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

May 16, 2002

P.O.Box 96456
Washington, DC
20090-6456

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

On Monday May 13, 2002, the National Information Technology Center (NITC) located in Kansas City, Missouri, encountered major equipment failures resulting in the loss of some data.

The AMS bid entry system (DEBES) and the procurement system (PCIMS) run in the NITC environment and have been adversely affected.

Any bids entered after Friday in the DEBES system probably have been lost.

Therefore, vendors who submitted bids via the DEBES system after about 6:00 p.m. Friday May 10 will need to re-enter and re-submit their bids when the DEBES system becomes available.

Currently, it is expected that the NITC environment will be available on Friday May 17. If the systems are down longer, it may be necessary to extend the bid opening and bid award dates. If date extensions become necessary, Amendments to the Invitations will be issued and faxed to the vendors.

Please contact the Marketing Specialists or Susan Proden of the Commodity Procurement Branch (202-720-4517) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Proden, Chief
Commodity Procurement Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs



AMS - Agricultural Marketing Service
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer